

REMARKS

Pending claims 2-12, 39-41, 61-68, and 73-76 have been examined with claims 39, 61, 66, 73, and 74 being independent claims. Claims 61-65 and 73-76 are hereby cancelled. As a result, claims 2-12, 39-41, and 66-68 are pending with claims 39 and 66 being independent claims. No new matter has been entered.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 2-12, 39-41, and 66-68. So as to allow these claims to issue, applicants hereby cancel claims 61-65 and 73-76 without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

II. Objections To New Matter Are Overcome

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Amendment filed July 14, 2004 as containing new matter. Applicants understand that this objection was based only on matter within claim 65. Without acceding to the propriety of this objection, Applicants have canceled claim 65, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 Are Overcome

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 65 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without acceding to propriety of this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 65 and 76 as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 Are Overcome

Claims 61-64 and 73-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yahiro (U.S. Patent 6,182,719) in view of Gubernator (U.S. Patent 6,436,351). Without acceding to the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 61-64 and 73-75. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

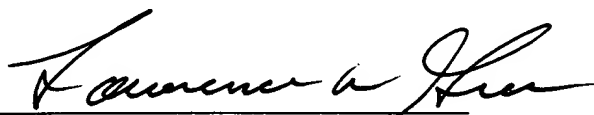
CONCLUSION

All of the unallowed claims have been canceled by this amendment, and the Examiner has already allowed all of the remaining claims. Entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is therefore respectfully requested, since it places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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